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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00379 280808Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 EUR-12 /118 W
----------062299 291355Z /53
R 280745Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2969
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS DURBAN 0379

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJ: BUTHELEZI WARNS OF BLACK CIVIL WAR

REF: DURBAN 360

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, UPON HIS RETURN FROM A WEST GERMAN CONFERENCE ON PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA (REFTEL) KWAZULU CHIEF MINISTER GATSHA BUTHELEZI WARNED THAT S.A. MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF A "BLACK CIVIL WAR" CAUSED BY BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS ORGANIZATIONS FOMENTING BLACK DISUNITY. AT JOHANNESBURG'S JAN SMUTS AIRPORT JUNE 24 BUTHELEZI REFERRED TO THE EXPULSION BY BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS SUPPORTERS OF A REPORTER FOR THE INKATHA NEWSPAPER "THE NATION" FROM THE SOWETO COMMEMMORATIVE SERVICES JUNE 16. BUTHELEZI SAW THIS AS PROOF THAT "THESE PEOPLE ARE ON THE WARPATH". IMPLICITLY REFERRING TO THE ARNOLD BERGSTRAESSER INSTITUTE STUDY'S FINDING THAT HE WAS SOUTH AFRICA'S MOST POPULAR BLACK LEADER (REFTEL), BUTHELEZI SAID SASO AND BPC SUPPORTERS WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD HIM. OTHERWISE, HE SAID, "WE WILL BE FACED WITH A HARD CHOICE - EITHER TO DESTROY THESE ELEMENTS
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POLITICALLY OR FACE A BLACK CIVIL WAR". LATER IN HIS SPEECH HE ADOPTED A MORE CONCILIATORY TONE, STATING THERE WERE MANY PATHS TO BLACK LIBERATION AND THAT THERE WAS "ENOUGH TO DO FOR EVERYONE ACCORDING TO HIS OWN CONVICTIONS".

2. GREETED BY OVER 1000 CHEERING AND SINGING UNIFORMED INKATHA MEMBERS AT DURBAN AIRPORT LATER THE SAME DAY, BUTHELEZI REPEATED

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HIS WARNINGS. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT TWO MEMBERS OF THE PAC EXECUTIVE HAD APOLOGIZED PERSONALLY TO HIM IN GENEVA FOR THE TREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED AT FORMER PAC LEADER ROBERT SOBUKWE'S FUNERAL. BUTHELEZI SAID "THEY WERE HORRIFIED AT THE SHABBY TREATMENT AND SAID THEY WERE VERY SORRY".

3. BUTHELEZI ALSO NOTED IN THE LATTER SPEECH THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE GERMAN CONFERENCE BECAUSE IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF OPINION IN BOTH BLACK AND WHITE COMM-UNITIES TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE. HE SAID "I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT WE CAN ONE DAY LOOK AT IT AS THE BEGINNING OF REAL DIALOGUE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
FARBER

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